

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please change the title to read as follows:

ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS HAVING AN INTERNAL CHANNEL

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 16 to read as follows:

In general, in an endoscope apparatus for industrial use, a frontal operating portion ~~170-160~~ is linked with a proximal end part of an elongated insert portion ~~171-161~~ to be inserted into a space which is a target of inspection such as the inside of a pipe, as shown in FIG. 47. As such an example, there is shown an exemplary configuration in which a head portion (not shown) is provided at the most distal end part side of the insert portion, the head portion having incorporated therein an observation optical system for observation, an illumination optical system and the like. Further, a flexibly bending portion which can be bent in an arbitrary vertical or horizontal direction is provided at the rear of the head portion. A plurality of, for example, four flexibly bending operation wires are extended to a frontal side (to a proximal end part) from a distal end of the flexibly bending portion. These flexibly bending operation wires are linked with a flexibly bending operation mechanism (not shown) provided at the frontal operating portion ~~170-160~~.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10 as follows:

An operating knob ~~173-163~~ for driving the flexibly bending operation mechanism and operating the flexibly bending portion to be bent is provided at this operating portion ~~170-160~~. By operation of this operating knob ~~173-163~~, the flexibly bending operation

mechanism is driven, each flexibly bending operation wire is pulled, and the flexibly bending portion is operated to be flexibly bent.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 as follows:

An internal channel (manipulating device inserting channel) for inserting a manipulating device such as forceps therein is provided at the insert portion of the endoscope. A distal operating end of the internal channel is formed at the head portion of the insert portion ~~171~~ 161.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24 as follows:

A forceps opening (proximal opening end) ~~172-162~~ of this internal channel is provided at the operating portion ~~171-161~~. An operating portion main body ~~174-164~~ having the operating knob ~~173-163~~ or the like provided thereat, and a grip portion ~~175-165~~ that is gripped by a user are provided at the operating portion ~~170-160~~. Then, it is often that the forceps opening ~~172-162~~ of the internal channel is disposed at the grip portion ~~175-165~~ of the operating portion ~~170-160~~ as shown in FIG. 47, or the forceps opening is disposed at a terminal portion of the operating portion main body ~~174-164~~ of an operating portion ~~176-166~~ as shown in FIG. 48.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9 as follows:

In recent years, with advancement of electrically driving of a flexibly bending mechanism, as its flexible bending input means, the manual operating knob ~~173-163~~ may be replaced with electrically driven flexibly bending input means such as a joystick 167 disclosed in USP 5,373,317, for example. This joystick 167 generates a signal corresponding to a tilt angle of the flexibly bending portion. However, at the operating

portion main body disclosed in USP 5,373,317, a motor or monitor for electrically driven bending is disposed, and thus, the operating portion main body is heavy in weight and is large in size, which means that an operator is easily tired. It is not necessary that operating input means is always provided at the operating portion ~~170-160~~ (~~176-166~~) at the rear end side of the insert portion ~~171-161~~.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 25 as follows:

Because of this, flexibly bending input means such as a joystick 167 is considered to be provided independently in a place other than the operating portion ~~170-160~~ (~~176-166~~) at the rear end side of the insert portion ~~171-161~~. In this case, when an attempt is made to carry out only a flexibly bending operation when the endoscope apparatus is used, the joystick 167 is operated in a place other than the operating portion ~~170-160~~ (~~176-166~~), whereby the insert portion ~~171-161~~ may be gripped at an arbitrary position. In addition, when an attempt is made to carry out only a forceps operation, the forceps may be operated at the forceps opening 172-162 or in the vicinity thereof in a state in which the grip portion 175-165 of the operating portion ~~170-160~~ (~~176-166~~) is gripped.

Please change the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 12 as follows:

However, as in a conventionally configured apparatus, when the joystick 167 and operating portion ~~170-160~~ (~~176-166~~) are present in different places from each other, an operation of the joystick 167 and a forceps operation from the forceps opening 172-162 are carried out individually in different places from each other. Thus, an operation of the conventional endoscope apparatus shown in FIGS. 47 and 48 cannot be carried out. Therefore, the joystick 167 and forceps opening 172-162 must be disposed such that their

respective operations do not interfere with each other in such a range that an operator's hand reaches.